

10 Struck by motor vehicle – Inspection #1298436

A **70 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he was **backed over by a truck** that was being used to collect traffic cones from a roadway. The company and a traffic control contractor were working to repair the roadway of a bridge when the incident occurred. The bridge work consisted of removing asphalt to check the condition of the deck before making the needed repairs. The traffic control company had cones in place to close one lane of traffic where the repairs were being performed. The lane closure was being ended for the day due to a time restriction that only allows the lane to be closed between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm so as not to affect rush hour traffic. The incident occurred just before 3pm.

The investigation concluded that the victim was standing behind the truck for an unknown reason and was backed-over by the truck. The truck driver backing up to collect the cones was not aware the victim was located behind the truck. It was determined that the truck involved had a functioning back-up alarm at the time of the incident. It is likely the victim was on his cell phone while waiting for a truck with sand bags to arrive which were needed to fill gaps next to the steel plates where road repairs had been performed. The victim's son, who also works for the company, was bringing the sand bags to the worksite and was talking on the phone with his dad just minutes before the incident occurred.

Although, the work in this area was not complete for the day; sand bags were yet to be placed in the roadway holes that were not covered by the steel plates. It was determined that employees were exposed to struck-by hazards due in part to there not being a consistent form of communication established between the two companies involved and due to the lane closure being ended before all work was completed in the work area.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

Citation 1 Item 1

TCA 50-3-105(1)	<p>The employer did not furnish employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees.</p> <p>In that employees were exposed to struck-by hazards in the following instances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) While standing in a work area where a traffic control truck was picking up cones while driving in reverse.b) While putting sand in the gaps left by the steel plates. The lane closure on the bridge was ended before all work was completed in the work area. <p>Among other methods, one feasible and acceptable means of abatement would be to follow Chapter 6 of ANSI A 10.47-2015 (Work Zone Safety for Highway Construction) and follow the</p>
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Photo 1 of 1 – Shows the truck, without the cone rack, which backed over the victim.